#### LIGHT-CONTROLLING GLASS, AND ITS MANUFACTURE

Publication number: JP10253995 (A) Publication date: 1998-09-25

NAKASE KIYOSHI; TAO MASATO + Inventor(s): Applicant(s): CENTRAL GLASS CO LTD +

Classification:

C03C27/12; G02F1/15; (IPC1-7): C03C27/12; G02F1/15 - international:

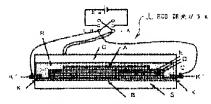
- European:

Application number: JP19970053111 19970307 Priority number(s): JP19970053111 19970307

#### Abstract of JP 10253995 (A)

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make it possible to PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make it possible to have uniform coloring/color fading, excellent appearance, durability and stability, and to improve the productivity and to reduce the cost, by using a middle film for a paired glass, and bringing a low resistance electrode part into direct contact with the end side part of an upper and lower transparent end sale part of all upper and lower transparent electrode layers abutting on a bus bar part. SOLUTION: An ECD is manufactured by forming a lower part ITO electrode layer B, further, a reversible electrolytic oxidized layer C, a tantalum reversible electrolytic oxidized layer C, a tantalum oxide ion conductive layer D, a tungsten oxide layer E and an upper part ITO electrode layer A on the whole surface of an element substrate S made of glass by DC spattering; Then, a sheet R being the middle film for sticking glass is cut out, and is placed on the prescribed position (position of low resistance electrode part for transparent electrode = bus bar K) of the sheet R so than an embossed copper film coincides with it, and the copper foil is stuck to the sheet R instantly. Then, respective stuck to the sheet R instantly. Then, respective external wiring LA, LB are bonded to the connection parts K' of the bus bar K of the electrode layer, and the ECD light- controlling glass 1 is manufactured.

Also published as: **)** JP3534288 (B2)



Data supplied from the espacenet database - Worldwide

JPO and INPIT are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

#### **CLAIMS**

# [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]In dimming glass in which an electrochromic element which consists of an electrochromic layer and a transparent electrode layer of a couple which sandwiches this at least was formed on the element substrate surface, Dimming glass coming in piles an interlayer for glass laminates which provided low resistance polar zone in a position corresponding to low resistance polar zone which hits a bus bar part on said transparent electrode layer beforehand on a transparent electrode layer.

[Claim 2]Said low resistance polar zone consists of conductive foil or a wire formed on said transparent electrode layer of a position of an end on the surface of an element substrate. The dimming glass according to claim 1, wherein a part of the foil or wire has projected outside from an edge of said interlayer for glass laminates and it turns into a terminal area with a lead. [Claim 3]The dimming glass according to claim 1 to 2 which allocates a conductive wire connected to said low resistance polar zone on an upper transparent electrode layer of a field with a lap of a transparent electrode layer of a couple, and is characterized by things. [Claim 4]In a manufacturing method of dimming glass in which an electrochromic element which consists of an electrochromic layer and a transparent electrode layer of a couple which sandwiches this at least was formed on the element substrate surface, A manufacturing method of dimming glass piling up an interlayer for glass laminates which provided low resistance polar zone in a position corresponding to this low resistance polar zone beforehand on said transparent electrode layer in order to provide low resistance polar zone which hits a bus bar part on said transparent electrode layer.

[Claim 5]A manufacturing method of the dimming glass according to claim 4 sticking said low resistance polar zone on an interlayer for glass laminates with heat.

[Claim 6]A manufacturing method of the dimming glass according to claim 4 to 5, wherein said interlayer for glass laminates is plasticization polyvinyl butyral or conversion ethylene vinyl acetate.

[Translation done.]

JPO and INPIT are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2,\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

# **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to dimming glass in which the electrochromic element was formed to the substrate face, and a manufacturing method for the same. [0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]If voltage is impressed, electrolytic oxidation or a reduction reaction will occur reversibly, and the phenomenon which is worn reversibly and decolorized is called electrochromism.

[0003] The electrochromic (it abbreviates to EC hereafter) substance in which such a phenomenon is shown is used. The trial which is going to make the EC element (it abbreviates to ECD hereafter) which is worn by voltage operation and decolorized, and is going to use this ECD for the numerical display using light control elements (for example, dimming glass, an anti-dazzle mirror, etc.) or seven segments is performed 20 years or more before.

[0004] For example, ECD (refer to JP,52-46098,B) which laminates a transparent electrode film (anode), a tungstic trioxide thin film, an insulator layer like a silica dioxide, and an electrode layer (cathode) one by one on a glass substrate is known as all the solid type ECD(s).

[0005]If voltage is impressed to this ECD, a tungstic trioxide (WO3) thin film will color blue. Then,

if reverse voltage is impressed to this ECD, the blue of a  $WO_3$  thin film will disappear and it will become colorlessness. Although this mechanism worn and decolorized is not clarified in detail, it is understood that  $WO_3$  wears and a small amount of moisture contained in a  $WO_3$  thin film and an insulator layer (ion conductive layer) is governing the discharge.

[0006] The reaction formula of coloring is presumed as follows.

 $H_2O \rightarrow H^++OH^-$ : (WO $_3$  film = anode side) WO $_3$ +nH $^+$ +ne $^ \rightarrow$ HnWO $_3$  — water—white Blue coloring (insulator layer = cathode side) OH $^ \rightarrow$  H $_2$ (1/2) 0 +(1/4) O $_2$ \*\*+(1/2) e $^-$ — as ECD in addition to this. A reduction coloring nature EC layer (for example, WO $_3$ ), an ion conductive layer (for example, tantalum oxide), and a reversible electrolytic oxidation layer (for example, oxidation or hydroxylation iridium) laminate what is known between an upper electrode and a lower electrode. [Three layers of EC] It is carried out and has the structure where predetermined voltage can be impressed between two electrodes.

[0007]By the way, in order for an EC layer to wear the electrode layer of the couple which sandwiches an EC layer directly or indirectly and to show a discharge outside, at least one side must be transparent. In transmission type ECD, a two-electrodes layer must be especially transparent.

[0008]As a transparent electrode material, although  $\rm SnO_2$ ,  $\rm In_2O_3$ , ITO (mixture of  $\rm In_2O_3$  and  $\rm SnO_2$ ), ZnO, etc. are known at present, Since such materials have comparatively bad transparency, it must be made thin, and usually ECD is formed on a substrate (for example, a glass plate and a plastic sheet) from this Reason and other Reasons.

[0009]By a use, ECD arranges the sealing substrate for protecting an element so that it may

counter with an element substrate, for example, using an epoxy resin etc., carries out seal closure and is used. By the way, that etc. for which the dimming glass using an electric element uses ECD and a liquid crystal are proposed variously. In the liquid crystal, it is already put in practical use.

[0010]Although utilization is behind, the dimming glass using ECD can control the energy of the transmitted light continuously, and has the outstanding characteristic which is not in a liquid crystal, like there is moreover no visual angle dependency. There is a kind of a solution type, a gel type, all the solid types, etc. of ECD(s) as a form of material (mainly electrolyte). [0011]Although enlargement of the dimming glass which targeted the object for construction, the window material for vehicles, etc. is demanded and research and development of enlargement are furthered also in ECD, All the solid type ECD(s) which form continuously all of EC coloring layer, an electrolyte layer, an electrode layer, etc. filmy have lamination and an unnecessary process of liquefied material seal, and it is thought on the process that enlargement is the easiest for them. [0012]A transparent conducting film is used for the electrode layer of ECD dimming glass. Although ITO is mostly used to a transparent conducting film now, the material of others, such as ZnO and SnO<sub>2</sub>, is also examined. Although the transparent electrode layer (transparent membrane of the upper part and the lower part) of a couple is usually formed on a substrate by vacuum deposition method, sputtering process, etc. using such materials, it becomes [ a metal electrode layer ] and is high resistance.

[0013]In order that said upper part and a lower transparent electrode layer may impress voltage from an external power, connection with external wiring is required. However, when a transparent electrode part is used as an electrode for [ with external wiring ] connecting corresponding to a vertical section transparent electrode layer (to pair [ Suitably an opposing side / Bus bar part: Vertical section transparent electrode layer ]). since the transparent electrode part is high resistance compared with external wiring, the electrode section of low resistance is provided in a transparent electrode part in piles (namely, — making it contact). Usually, a low resistance transparent electrode part is provided in the end part of the transparent electrode layer located in a substrate face end band-like (for example, it equips with a metal clip).

[0014]In order to prevent element deterioration, ECD dimming glass is closed by sealing resin (for example, epoxy resin) and the sealing substrate, and is used. In JP,H6-167724,A concerning invention for which these people already applied. In the manufacturing method of the dimming glass which indicated the manufacturing method of dimming glass and formed in the element substrate surface at least the electrochromic element which consists of an electrochromic layer and a transparent electrode layer of the couple which sandwiches this, The low resistance polar zone was provided on said transparent electrode layer located in the end and inside of the element substrate surface, and it indicated having closed this element substrate by the interlayer for glass laminates, and the sealing substrate.

[Problem to be solved by the invention]uneven on the big problem in it, although various technical problems are followed on enlargement of ECD dimming glass — it wears and there is a discharge. It is this uneven phenomenon in which shading differences (irregular color) are made without a discharge's becoming constant [ coloring concentration ] all over ECD, even if it wears, and it passes at the time of ECD coloring, and shading differences (irregular color) are conspicuous also at the time of a discharge, and becomes a cause of durability degradation besides an appearance defect.

[0016]It is on another problem that the productivity of sealing is bad. In order sealing resin before hardening is liquefied and to prevent optical strain and element deterioration of ECD dimming glass, it is necessary to make the whole element face harden sealing resin by uniform thickness. Achievement of this uniform thickness takes suitable adjustment of the amount of sealing resin, welding pressure, and welding-pressure distribution.

[0017] for example, if the amount of sealing resin is made large enough from a substrates face so that it disturbs, it will become comparatively easy [ the welding pressure for uniform thickness

and adjustment of welding-pressure distribution], but it is \*\*\*\* -- the process of removing the resin carried out is needed. from a substrates face, when the amount of sealing resin is lessened so that it may not disturb, it is \*\*\*\* -- although the process of removing the resin carried out becomes unnecessary, the welding pressure for uniform thickness and adjustment of welding-pressure distribution become very difficult, and uniform thickness cannot be realized, or adjustment will take great time.

[0018]By the manufacturing method of the dimming glass of a description, to JP,H6-167724,A concerning invention for which these people already applied. The discharge was uniform, by wearing, although appearance, endurance, and productivity were able to be made to improve, were sticking the low resistance polar zone on the up-and-down polar zone (bus bar part) suitably by adhesion TE - PU, for example, but. The phenomenon in which sticking work may take time and adhesion of this sticking part exfoliates in long-term use may happen, Contact with not only becoming an appearance defect but said up-and-down polar zone and said low resistance polar zone worsens, contact resistance may become high, and may wear, a response may fall [ the time of a discharge ], and further endurance is desired.

[0019] The purpose of this invention wears, a discharge can maintain uniform and good appearance for a long time, and it is provided with more long-term endurance, improves productivity more in the dimming glass which is excellent in long stability, aims at a cost cut, and there is in manufacturing.

[0020]

[Means for solving problem] The interval of the low resistance polar zone established on the transparent electrode layer located in a substrate face end increases with enlargement of ECD dimming glass. Drawing 7 is an outline sectional view of ECD dimming glass, and drawing 9. The figure showing typically signs of the current I at the time of impressing voltage to ECD with large low resistance polar zone (for example, metal clip) H1 and interval of H2 which were established on the transparent electrode layer which is conventional ECD dimming glass and is located in a substrate face end that it flows [Drawing 9 (a)] And the figure showing the coloring situation in the ECD dimming glass by this It is by [drawing 9 (b)].

[0021]Since resistance of a transparent electrode layer increases and it becomes larger than the resistance to the internal direction of ECD as ECD is enlarged, as shown in <u>drawing 9</u>, the great portion of current I. Although it flows into the inside of ECD through which it is comparatively easy to flow by low resistance from the end of a transparent electrode layer and colors deeply early in the portion near the low resistance polar zone H1 as a result, It applied to the other end from the center section distant from the low resistance polar zone H1, and current hardly flowed, but coloring became thin very late, and it turned out especially in large-sized ECD that this tendency is remarkable.

[0022]Although there were few uneven tendencies when compared at the time of coloring also at the time of a discharge, it turned out that it decolorizes unevenly by the same cause. Drawing 6 is an outline top view showing the state at the time of equipping four side end parts of the substrate of the conventional ECD dimming glass 4 with four conductive clip H.

[0023] Therefore, equal current as shown in <u>drawing 8</u> flowed, and in order to be referred to as large-sized ECD which is worn uniformly and decolorized, it turned out that what is necessary is just to make resistance of a transparent electrode layer small to the internal resistance grade of ECD.

[0024]Although what is necessary is just to use the electrode material of low resistance in order to make resistance of a transparent electrode layer small, this demand cannot fully be filled with the present transparent electrode material (ITO, ZnO, SnO<sub>2</sub>, etc.).

[0025] This invention persons use the interlayer for glass laminates for sealing of ECD dimming glass about the formation method of the polar zone of low resistance, If direct heat arrival of the low resistance polar zone is carried out to this interlayer and it is made to carry out direct contact of this low resistance polar zone and the end part of the up-and-down transparent electrode layer which hits the above mentioned bus bar part (up-and-down polar zone), respectively, It found out that wear, and a discharge can maintain uniform and good appearance

for a long time, have more long-term endurance, could manufacture the dimming glass which is excellent in long stability, the productivity of sealing improved more, without the exfoliation phenomenon which also described long-term use above happening, and a cost cut was possible. [0026]In the dimming glass with which this invention formed in the element substrate surface at least the electrochromic element which consists of an electrochromic layer and a transparent electrode layer of the couple which sandwiches this, The dimming glass coming in piles the interlayer for glass laminates which provided the low resistance polar zone in the position corresponding to the low resistance polar zone which hits the bus bar part on said transparent electrode layer beforehand on a transparent electrode layer, Said low resistance polar zone consists of the conductive foil or wire formed on said transparent electrode layer of the position of the end on the surface of an element substrate, A part of the foil or wire has projected outside from the edge of said interlayer for glass laminates, The dimming glass which allocates the conductive wire connected to said low resistance polar zone on the upper transparent electrode layer of the dimming glass becoming a terminal area with a lead, and which was mentioned above and a field with the lap of the transparent electrode layer of a couple, and is characterized by things and which was mentioned above is provided.

[0027]In the manufacturing method of the dimming glass with which this invention formed in the element substrate surface at least the electrochromic element which consists of an electrochromic layer and a transparent electrode layer of the couple which sandwiches this, In order to provide the low resistance polar zone which hits a bus bar part on said transparent electrode layer, Said low resistance polar zone which is what provides the manufacturing method of the dimming glass piling up the interlayer for glass laminates which provided the low resistance polar zone in the position corresponding to this low resistance polar zone beforehand on said transparent electrode layer, It is good to stick on the interlayer for glass laminates with heat, and the temperature of said heat is preferred in it being a below not less than about 80 \*\*150 \*\* grade.

[0028] Said means to stick is good in it being the heat in the thing similar to generation of heat by energization, a soldering iron, or this. Said interlayer for glass laminates has plasticization polyvinyl butyral or preferred conversion ethylene vinyl acetate.
[0029]

[Mode for carrying out the invention] In the dimming glass of this invention, not only in the transparent electrode layer top located in a substrate face end, By providing the low resistance polar zone (this low resistance polar zone is also henceforth called an auxiliary bus bar) on the upper transparent electrode layer inside the substrate face inside the border line of a transparent electrode layer pattern, The low resistance polar-zone interval on an up-and-down transparent electrode layer can be reduced, and resistance of a transparent electrode layer can be brought close to the internal resistance of ECD.

[0030]As a result, since the current I fully flows not only into an ECD internal direction but into the horizontal direction of an upper transparent electrode layer as shown in <u>drawing 8</u> when voltage is impressed to ECD, and it moreover has a diffusion effect of the coloring in the inside of ECD of low resistance comparatively, it can cross all over ECD and can be made to color uniformly.

[0031]As a material of a bus bar, metal wires, such as gold, silver, aluminum, copper, platinum, chromium, tin, zinc, nickel, a ruthenium, rhodium, and stainless steel, a metallic foil and a metal thin film, or conductive paste can be used, for example.

[0032]What is necessary is just it to be preferred to make the bus-bar part established in the end of the sheet R project outside from the end rim of the interlayer for glass laminates, and to consider it as a terminal area with a lead, and to bend 90 degrees of ends outside to the length direction, when using a metallic foil or a metal wire.

[0033]By the way, since the transmissivity of four corners falls too much at the time of coloring and it becomes impossible to maintain the whole balance, when too long [ in the length of – neighborhood of a substrate being full ] as bus—bar length, It is preferred to suppose that it is shorter than the length of – neighborhood of a substrate (probably compared with other places, there is little influence of the voltage drop by energization). The optimal bus—bar length is

suitably decided in consideration of a factor with complicated impressed electromotive force, resistance of ITO, resistance of ECD, form of ECD, service temperature, etc.

[0034]As seen in drawing 7-9, a bus bar does not have to shorten the length of a bus bar, if a lower ITO electrode part and a top ITO electrode part are [ every / one (one side) ]. Although the plasticization PVB or (polyvinyl butyral) conversion EVA (ethylene vinyl acetate) is preferred to the interlayer for glass laminates concerning this invention, especially if similar to these, it will not be limited to it, for example.

[0035]Although the laminated structure in particular of ECD in this invention is not limited with which, as a structure of solid type ECD, for example, four layer systems like \*\* electrode layer / EC layer (an oxidation coloring film or a reduction coloring film) / ion conductive layer / electrode layer and \*\* electrode layer — five layer systems like a /reduction coloring type EC layer / ion conductive layer / reversible electrolytic oxidation layer / electrode layer [Drawing 7] is mentioned.

[0036] Generally as a reduction coloring type EC layer, WO $_3$ , MnO $_3$ , V $_2$ O $_5$ , etc. are used. As an ion conductive layer, a silicon oxide, tantalum oxide, titanium oxide, an aluminum oxide, niobium oxide, zirconium oxide, oxidation hafnium, a lanthanum trioxide, magnesium fluoride, etc. are used, for example. To an electron, although an ion conductive layer is an insulator, it serves as a good conductor to proton (H $^+$ ) and hydroxy ion (OH $^-$ ). An EC layer wears, a cation is needed for a discharge reaction, and it is necessary to make an EC layer and others contain H $^+$  and Li $^+$ . It is not necessary to be ion from the start, when voltage is impressed, H $^+$  should just arise, therefore H $^+$  may make water contain instead of H $^+$ . There is dramatically little this water, it is enough, and is worn and decolorized also with the moisture which often invades automatically out of the atmosphere.

[0037]as a reversible electrolytic oxidation layer — oxidation thru/or hydroxylation iridium — the same — nickel — the same — chromium — the same — a ruthenium — similarly rhodium etc. are mentioned. It may distribute in the ion conductive layer or the transparent electrode layer, and these substances may be distributing them conversely.

[0038]Although said oxidation coloring film (reversible electrolytic oxidation layer) or a reduction coloring film (reduction coloring type EC layer) is good as for the bottom as for a top in which, it does not use the same film for the upper and lower sides.

[0039]In the aforementioned \*\*, an EC layer and an ion conductive layer are good as for the bottom as for a top in which. Furthermore, in the aforementioned \*\*, a reversible (it also becomes oxidation coloring nature EC layer by case) electrolytic oxidation layer (or catalyst bed) may be allocated on both sides of an ion conductive layer to an EC layer in between.

[0040]

[Working example] Hereafter, although an embodiment explains this invention concretely, this invention is not limited to this.

[0041] The all the solids type ECD dimming glass (electrochromic element)  $\underline{1}$  of about 45 cm x 45-cm size which are shown in embodiment 1 drawing 1 - 3 was produced in the following procedures.

[0042](1) The lower ITO electrode layer B was formed in the whole surface of the glass element substrates S of about 45 cm x 45-cm size by DC sputtering. As for the substrate heating temperature at the time of sputtering, the sheet resistance of about 1000 A and this ITO electrode layer of the thickness of about 200 \*\* and this ITO electrode layer was about 25ohms/lot.

[0043](2) As it was indicated in 3 as <u>drawing 2</u>, photo etching removed the ITO electrode layer of the field of both-sides B' of the above-mentioned lower ITO electrode layer, and B". These patterns may be directly formed by carrying out mask deposition of the ITO.

[0044](3) The reversible electrolytic oxidation layer C and the ion conductive layer D of tantalum oxide which consist of a mixture of iridium oxide and the tin oxide by DC sputtering, and the tungstic oxide layer E were formed one by one.

[0045](4) The top ITO electrode layer A was formed by DC sputtering, and ECD was produced.

Substrate heating at the time of sputtering was not performed (heating will degrade the EC layer which formed membranes previously), but the thickness of the top ITO electrode layer A shall be about 3000 A, and it was made for the sheet resistance of the top ITO electrode layer A to become [lot] in same about 250hms /as the lower electrode layer B.

[0046](5) Cut down the sheet R (conversion EVA or plasticization PVB) which is an interlayer for glass laminates in size of about 45 cm x 45 cm, and it is a predetermined place of the sheet R. It is copper foil with embossing (10 micrometers in thickness, 2.5 mm in width, and 25 mm in length) to [the position of drawing 1 - J (low resistance polar zone for top transparent electrodes = bus bar) of three, and K (low resistance polar zone for lower transparent electrodes = bus bar)]. although there may not be any embossing and there is this processing, since adhesion good at the time of doubling (closure) of a post process is obtained -- a direction -- it is desirable, as it places so that it may be in agreement, and shown in drawing 4, While impressing the voltage of AC7V to the energization terminal of about 1-cm interval, pressing down the arbitrary points of copper foil and sparks' occurring slightly, copper foil and the sheet R were pasted up momentarily. Such about ten operations per copper foil were performed continuously.

[0047]What is necessary is just to decide on the place which pastes up copper foil and the sheet R suitably with the size of copper foil and the sheet R. What is necessary is just to decide suitably also about the size and form of an energization terminal, and it is not limited to this example. Two or more energization terminals may be used.

[0048]In order to connect with a lead later, copper foil provided the sheet R and the portion which has not been pasted up, and bent it at 90 degrees to the length direction of the copper foil pasted up outside from the edge of the sheet R. [Drawing 1 - J' (upper electrode section = bus-bar terminal area) in three, K' (lower electrode sections = bus-bar terminal area)] .Even if impressed electromotive force was not so large, copper foil and the sheet R were pasted up enough. As impressed electromotive force, less than about 1 second was [ at AC or DC ] preferred abbreviation 3 - 10V. The temperature of a soldering iron is pressed down by about 80 - a 150 \*\* grade, and time is less than about 1 second and almost momentary adhesion. The conduction of low resistance to which change which energization resistance increases in the long run does not take place about adhesive strength can be maintained, and what is necessary is for such an adhesion method to be just used.

[0049](6) By the sheet R stuck in \*\* arrival with the described method, and (EVA film: DEYUMIRAN F300 and about 250 mum) the glass sealing substrates G, copper foil with this embossing. The element substrate S (the element side is considered as for inner) and the sealing substrate G which are glass plates with an EC element about Si – TO R (a \*\*\*\*\*\* arrival side is considered as for [ an element substrate ] EC element sides) which is this \*\*\*\*\* arrival EVA film. It puts on sandwich shape so that copper foil may become a bus—bar position on the transparent electrode layer formed at the process of the above (4), The element was closed by doubling and cooling in about 40 \*\* and about 5 minutes by being stuck by pressure by conditions, such as 0.1 – 5Torr, in about 0.1 – 0.5Torr or/and about 85 \*\*, and about 25 minutes, using a laminating machine (for a press).

[0050]The ways in particular, such as a procedure of sealing by doubling, are not limited. (7) Bonding of the external wiring (the terminals LA and LB of external wiring) was carried out to J' of the bus bars J and K of an upper electrode layer and a lower electrode layer, and k', respectively, and the ECD dimming glass 1 was produced. Right-and-left limitation is not carried out in particular about said position which carries out bonding, and what is necessary is just to choose suitably the optimal position, such as using the sheet (it is not necessary to stick) R which stuck another copper foil, a wire (auxiliary bus bar), etc. on the center section, for example.

[0051] Thus, the discharge voltage of abbreviation+1.5 V is impressed to the produced ECD dimming glass 1 for about 5 minutes from the driving source Su via said terminals LA and LB, It can set all over the coloring section of the ECD dimming glass 1 at this time. When the transmissivity distribution by illuminant C was measured, it was about about 22 to 27%, and it came to be shown in drawing 8 (b), and uneven coloring which is worried especially was not

observed. Next, when the discharge voltage of abbreviation-1.5 V was impressed for about 1 minute, transmissivity was recovered to about 65 to 68%, and color unevenness which the inside of a discharge also worries was not observed.

[0052]About 0.2 mm phi which performed the nickel plate so that the bus bars J and J of the copper foil formed in the both ends on a top transparent electrode (dotted line A) which counter, or a copper thin film might be connected, as shown in <a href="mailto:embodiment 2 drawing 5">embodiment 2 drawing 5</a>, Formed the sheet R which put in order five conductive wires (two-dot chain line W) which consist of copper wire about 44.5-45 mm in length at intervals of about 5 cm, and it was considered as the auxiliary bus bar of the low resistance polar zone, and also the ECD dimming glass 2 was produced like Embodiment 1.

[0053] The leakage current which impressed the discharge voltage of abbreviation-1.5V for about 1 minute to this ECD dimming glass 2, and measured it from the driving source Su to it is about abbreviation-0.8mA.

It increased from the case of Embodiment 1 a little.

As shown in <u>drawing 5</u>, at the place in which the nickel plate copper wire bus bar was provided, the thing in which leakage current is a little large requires a pressure, and is considered because it has a certain influence on the lapped part of the up-and-down transparent electrode A and B pattern.

[0054] The coloring voltage of abbreviation+1.5V is impressed to this ECD dimming glass 2 for about 2 minutes from the driving source Su, The ECD dimming glass 2 at this time wears, and it can set all over a discharge part. When the transmissivity distribution by illuminant C was measured, it is about about 20 to 23%, and the uneven coloring to worry was not observed like Embodiment 1.

[0055]Next, when the discharge voltage of abbreviation-1.5V was impressed for about 1 minute, transmissivity was recovered to about about 67 to 70%, and color unevenness which the inside of a discharge also worries was not observed. A response is abbreviation. Since the nickel plate copper wire bus bar was provided in the top ITO film, it increased quick 2 to 3 times because the sheet resistance of the top ITO film fell seemingly.

[0056]About the nickel plate copper wire bus bar used as an auxiliary electrode, if it is a conductor of not only this but low resistance, it is [ anything ] good, but about resistance of a conductor, the thing used as about 30hms or less per one is preferred. If set to not less than about 30hms, the effect as an auxiliary electrode to a top ITO film will fade, and improvement in a response will decrease. It is below about 0.5 omega order grade (it is better as low) further more preferably.

[0057]It coated with the copper thin film by the silver film or mask deposition by silver paste in the position on the sheet R which sticks copper foil of the bus bars J and K shown in <a href="mailto:embodiment 3 drawing 1">embodiment 3 drawing 1</a>, and also ECD dimming glass was produced like Embodiment 1 in it. [0058]The leakage current which impressed the discharge voltage of abbreviation—1.5V for about 1 minute to this ECD dimming glass, and measured it from the driving source Su to it was about abbreviation—0.5mA. The coloring voltage of abbreviation+1.5V is impressed to this ECD dimming glass for about 5 minutes from the driving source Su, The ECD dimming glass at this time wears, and it can set all over a discharge part. When the transmissivity distribution by illuminant C was measured, it is about about 21 to 26%, and the uneven coloring to worry was not observed like Embodiment 1. Next, when the discharge voltage of abbreviation—1.5V was impressed for about 1 minute, transmissivity was recovered to about about 65 to 68%, and the color unevenness which the inside of a discharge also worries was not observed.

[0059] Comparative example 1 size shall be about 25 cm x 15 cm, and a section prepares two conductive clip H about 15 cm long made from phosphor bronze or stainless steel (H1, H2) with the shape of KO, As conductive clip H 2 shown [ this ] in drawing 9, equip the neighborhood which an element substrate end opposes, and it was made for conductive clip H to stick the takeoff connection of upper part and lower each electrode layer by pressure by this, and also ECD dimming glass was produced like Embodiment 1.

[0060]It is the discharge voltage of abbreviation-1.5V from the driving source Su to this ECD dimming glass About 0.5 Impressing between parts, the measured leakage current was about

abbreviation-0.1mA. The coloring voltage of abbreviation+1.5V is impressed to this ECD dimming glass for about 3 minutes from the driving source Su, The ECD dimming glass at this time wears, and it can set all over a discharge part. When the transmissivity distribution by illuminant C was measured, it was about about 27 to 35%, and as shown in (a) of drawing 9, and (b), unequal current as shown in a mimetic diagram flowed, and the uneven coloring which becomes [ mind as shown in a top view ] was observed. Next, it is the discharge voltage of abbreviation-1.5V About 0.5 When impressed between parts, although transmissivity was recovered to about about 65 to 68%, the color unevenness which becomes the mist beam mind in a discharge was observed. [0061]Although the manufacturing method of the dimming glass of this invention explained ECD in full detail, it cannot be overemphasized that it is possible to adopt it not only as an ECD field but as fields similar to these, such as the liquid crystal (LCD) field, widely.

[0062]In the same size as comparative example 2 Embodiment 1, a section prepares four conductive clip H about 25 cm long made from phosphor bronze or stainless steel (H1, H2) with the shape of KO, As conductive clip H4 shown [ this ] in drawing 6, equip the neighborhood which an element substrate end opposes, and it was made for conductive clip H to stick the takeoff connection of upper part and lower each electrode layer by pressure by this, and also the ECD dimming glass 4 was produced like Embodiment 1.

[0063] The leakage current which impressed the discharge voltage of abbreviation-1.5V for about 1 minute to this ECD dimming glass, and measured it from the driving source Su to it was about abbreviation-0.5mA. The coloring voltage of abbreviation+1.5V is impressed to this ECD dimming glass for about 5 minutes from the driving source Su, The ECD dimming glass at this time wears, and it can set all over a discharge part. When the transmissivity distribution by illuminant C was measured, it was about about 30 to 38%, and the unequal current which shows the same tendency as the comparative example 1 flowed, and worrisome uneven coloring was observed. Next, when the discharge voltage of abbreviation-1.5V was impressed for about 1 minute, transmissivity was recovered to about about 67 to 70%, but the color unevenness which becomes the mist beam mind in a discharge was observed.

[0064]Although the manufacturing method of the dimming glass of this invention explained ECD in full detail, it cannot be overemphasized that it is possible to adopt it not only as an ECD field but as fields similar to these, such as the liquid crystal (LCD) field, widely. [0065]

[Effect of the Invention]\*\*\*\* arrival of the low resistance polar zone (bus bar) is carried out to the interlayer for glass laminates using generation of heat of current, etc., this is stuck by pressure on the transparent electrode layer of the end of a substrate face, and it was made to close by this element substrate and sealing substrate by this invention as above. Therefore, it can wear, a discharge can maintain uniform and good appearance for a long time, it can have more long—term endurance, dimming glass excellent in long stability and a response can be manufactured with more sufficient productivity, and a cost cut can be aimed at.

[0066] dimming glass with good endurance whose response was markedly alike and which was further excellent in it can be manufactured by providing said low resistance polar zone (auxiliary bus bar) linked to said attachment low resistance polar zone (bus bar) in a field with the lap of the transparent electrode layer of a couple.

[Translation done.]

JPO and INPIT are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.\*\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

#### DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is an outline sectional view of the ECD dimming glass concerning Embodiment 1. [Drawing 2] It is an outline top view showing the pattern of the bus bar of the ECD dimming glass concerning Embodiment 1 of drawing 1, etc.

[Drawing 3]It is an outline perspective view of the ECD dimming glass concerning Embodiment 1 of drawing 1.

[Drawing 4] It is an explanatory view showing the adhesion method of the bus bar to the interlayer concerning Embodiment 1.

[Drawing 5] It is an outline top view showing a bus bar of ECD dimming glass, a pattern of an auxiliary bus bar, etc. concerning Embodiment 2.

[Drawing 6] It is an outline top view showing the state where the substrate end in conventional dimming glass was equipped with the conductive clip.

[Drawing 7] It is an outline sectional view of ECD dimming glass.

[Drawing 8] The mimetic diagram showing signs that the current I flows in the ECD dimming glass concerning this invention: Drawing 8 (a) And the top view showing the coloring situation of the ECD dimming glass by this: It is drawing 8 (b).

[Drawing 9] The mimetic diagram showing signs that the current I flows in the ECD dimming glass of the comparative example 1: Drawing 9 (a) And the top view showing the coloring situation of the ECD dimming glass by this: It is drawing 9 (b).

[Explanations of letters or numerals]

- 1 ... ECD dimming glass
- 2 ... ECD dimming glass
- 4... ECD dimming glass
- A ... Top ITO electrode layer
- B ... Lower ITO electrode layer
- E ... Tungstic oxide layer
- D ... Ion conductive layer
- C ... Reversible electrolytic oxidation layer
- ECD .. Electrochromic element
- R ... Sheet (interlayer for glass laminates)
- S ... Element substrate
- G ... Sealing substrate
- H ... Conductive clip
- J ... Low resistance polar zone for top transparent electrodes (bus bar)
- K ... Low resistance polar zone for lower transparent electrodes (bus bar)
- J' .. Terminal area of an upper electrode section (bus bar)
- K' .. Terminal area of lower electrode sections (bus bar)
- I...ECD driving current
- W ... Conductive wire (an example of an auxiliary bus bar)

The terminal of the external wiring from LA...J'

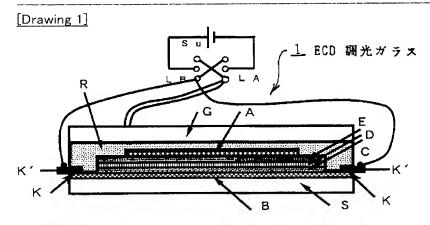
The terminal of the external wiring from LB...K'

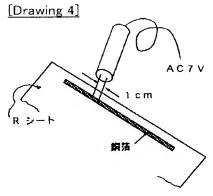
Su Driving source	
[Translation done.]	

JPO and INPIT are not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

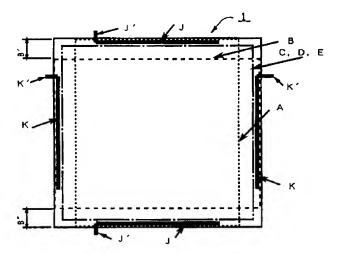
- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.\*\*\* shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

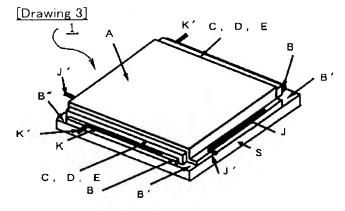
# **DRAWINGS**

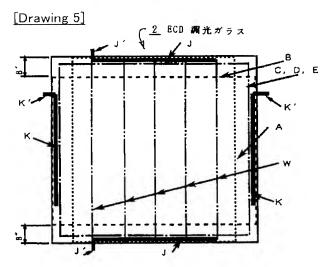




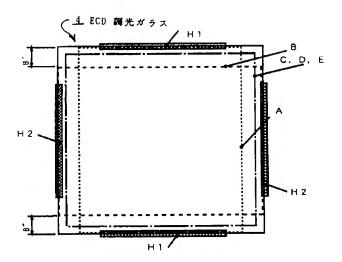
[Drawing 2]

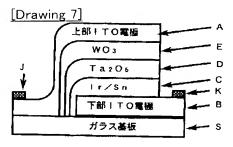


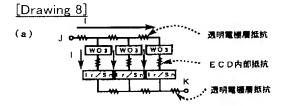


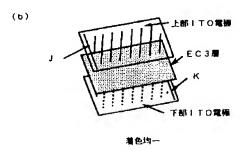


[Drawing 6]

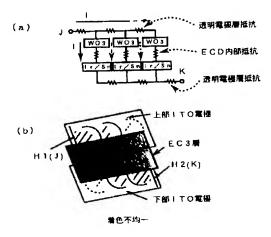








[Drawing 9]



[Translation done.]

# (19) 日本国特許庁 (JP) (12) 公開特許公報 (A)

# (11)特許出願公開番号

# 特開平10-253995

(43)公開日 平成10年(1998) 9月25日

(51) Int.Cl. <sup>8</sup>	識別記号	FΙ	
G02F 1/15	5 0 2	G 0 2 F 1/15	502
C 0 3 C 27/12		C 0 3 C 27/12	L
			N

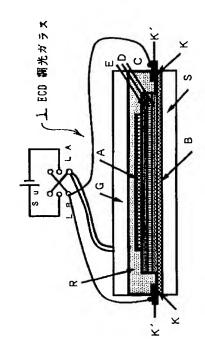
	審查請求	未請求 請求項の数6 〇L (全 9 頁)
<b>特願平</b> 9-53111	(71)出顧人	000002200 セントラル硝子株式会社
(22)出願日 平成9年(1997)3月7日		山口県宇部市大字沖宇部5253番地
	(72)発明者	中瀬 喜好 三重県松阪市大口町1510 セントラル硝子 株式会社硝子研究所内
	(72)発明者	田尾 正人 三重県松阪市大口町1510 セントラル硝子 株式会社硝子研究所内
	(74)代理人	弁理士 西 <b>袋</b> 之
		特顧平9-53111 (71)出顧人 平成9年(1997)3月7日 (72)発明者 (72)発明者

# (54)【発明の名称】 調光ガラスおよびその製造方法

# (57)【要約】

【課題】 着消色が均一で良好な外観をより長く持続で き、より長期的な耐久性を備え、長期的安定性に優れる 調光ガラスを生産性をより向上しコストダウンを図り、 製造する。

【解決手段】 少なくともエレクトロクロミック層とこ れを挟む一対の透明電極層とからなるエレクトロクロミ ック素子を素子基板表面に形成した調光ガラスにおい て、前記透明電極層上のバスバー部に当たる低抵抗電極 部に対応する位置に予め低抵抗電極部を設けた合わせガ ラス用中間膜を透明電極層上に重ねる。



#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 少なくともエレクトロクロミック層とこ れを挟む一対の透明電極層とからなるエレクトロクロミ ック素子を素子基板表面に形成した調光ガラスにおい て、前記透明電極層上のバスバー部に当たる低抵抗電極 部に対応する位置に予め低抵抗電極部を設けた合わせガ ラス用中間膜を透明電極層上に重ねてなることを特徴と する調光ガラス。

【請求項2】 前記低抵抗電極部が素子基板表面の端部 の位置の前記透明電極層上に形成された導電性の箔また はワイヤーからなり、その箔またはワイヤーの一部が前 記合わせガラス用中間膜の縁から外側へ突出しており、 リード線との接続部となることを特徴とする請求項1記 載の調光ガラス。

【請求項3】 一対の透明電極層の重なりがある領域の 上部透明電極層上に、前記低抵抗電極部に接続された導 電性のワイヤーを配設してなることを特徴とする請求項 1乃至2記載の調光ガラス。

【請求項4】 少なくともエレクトロクロミック層とこ れを挟む一対の透明電極層とからなるエレクトロクロミ ック素子を素子基板表面に形成した調光ガラスの製造方 法において、前記透明電極層上にバスバー部に当たる低 抵抗電極部を設けるために、該低抵抗電極部に対応する 位置に予め低抵抗電極部を設けた合わせガラス用中間膜 を前記透明電極層上に重ねることを特徴とする調光ガラ スの製造方法。

【請求項5】 前記低抵抗電極部を、熱によって合わせ ガラス用中間膜に貼着することを特徴とする請求項4記 載の調光ガラスの製造方法。

【請求項6】 前記合わせガラス用中間膜が、可塑化ポ リビニールブチラール、もしくは変成エチレンビニール

 $H_2O \rightarrow H^+ + OH^-$ 

(WO<sub>3</sub> 膜=陰極側)WO<sub>3</sub> +nH⁺ +ne⁻ →HnWO<sub>3</sub>

# 無色透明

(絶縁膜=陽極側) OH- → (1/2)H<sub>2</sub>O +(1/4)O<sub>2</sub> ↑+(1/2)e-

その他にECD として知られているものは、上部電極と下 部電極の間に、還元着色性EC層(例えばWO<sub>3</sub>)、イオン 導電層(例えば酸化タンタル)、可逆的電解酸化層(例 えば酸化または水酸化イリジウム)が積層〔EC三層〕さ れ、両電極間に所定の電圧を印加できる構造となってい る。

【0007】ところで、EC層を直接または間接的に挟む 一対の電極層は、EC層の着消色を外部に見せるために少 なくとも一方は透明でなければならない。特に透過型の ECDの場合には両電極層とも透明でなければならない。

【0008】透明な電極材料としては、現在のところSn  $O_2$ 、 $In_2O_3$  、ITO ( $In_2O_3$  と $SnO_2$ の混合物)、ZnO 等が 知られているが、これらの材料は比較的透明度が悪いた めに薄くせねばならず、この理由及びその他の理由から ECD は基板 (例えばガラス板やプラスチック板) の上に

アセテートであることを特徴とする請求項4乃至5記載 の調光ガラスの製造方法。

#### 【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、エレクトロクロミ ック素子を基板表面に形成した調光ガラスおよびその製 造方法に関する。

#### [0002]

【従来の技術】電圧を印加すると可逆的に電解酸化また は還元反応が起こり、可逆的に着消色する現象をエレク トロクロミズムという。

【0003】このような現象を示すエレクトロクロミッ ク (以下、ECと略す)物質を用いて、電圧操作により着 消色するEC素子(以下、ECD と略す)を作り、このECD を光量制御素子(例えば調光ガラスや防眩ミラー等)や 7セグメントを利用した数字表示素子に利用しようとす る試みは、20年以上前から行われている。

【0004】例えば、ガラス基板の上に透明電極膜(陰 極)、三酸化タングステン薄膜、二酸化ケイ素のような 絶縁膜、電極膜(陽極)を順次積層してなるECD (特公 昭52-46098 号参照) が全固体型ECD として知られてい

【0005】このECD に電圧を印加すると三酸化タング ステン(WO。)薄膜が青色に着色する。その後、このEC D に逆の電圧を印加すると、WO。薄膜の青色が消えて、 無色になる。この着消色する機構は詳しくは解明されて いないが、Wa薄膜及び絶縁膜(イオン導電層)中に含 まれる少量の水分がWO<sub>3</sub>の着消色を支配していると理解 されている。

【0006】着色の反応式は、以下のように推定されて

形成されるのが普通である。

青着色

【〇〇〇9】また、ECD は用途によって、素子を保護す るための封止基板を素子基板と対向するように配置し、 例えばエポキシ樹脂等を用いて密封封止して用いられ る。ところで、電気素子を用いる調光ガラスは、ECD や 液晶を利用するものなど、種々提案されており、液晶で は既に実用化されている。

【0010】ECD を用いる調光ガラスは、実用化は遅れ ているが、透過光のエネルギーを連続的に制御でき、し かも視角依存性がない等の液晶にはない優れた特性を有 する。ECD には、材料 (主に電解質)の形態として溶液 型、ゲル型、全固体型等の種類がある。

【0011】建築用、車両用窓材等をターゲットにした 調光ガラスの大型化が要請され、ECD においても大型化 の研究開発が進められているが、EC着色層、電解質層、

電極層等をすべて薄膜状に連続的に形成する全固体型ECDは、貼り合わせや液状材料密封といった工程が不要であり、工程上最も大型化が容易と考えられている。

【OO12】ECD 調光ガラスの電極層には透明導電膜が用いられる。現在、透明導電膜に多く使われているのはITO であるが、ZnO や $SnO_2$ 等その他の材料も検討されている。これらの材料を使用して一対の透明電極層(上部と下部の透明膜)が、通常、真空蒸着法やスパッタリング法等で基板上に形成されるが、金属電極層と比較するとかなり高抵抗である。

【0013】前記上部、下部透明電極層とも外部電源から電圧を印加するために外部配線との接続が必要である。しかし、上下部透明電極層に対応して外部配線との接続するための電極として透明電極部(バスバー部:上下部透明電極層の適宜対向辺に対に)を使用した場合には、透明電極部が外部配線に比べて高抵抗であるので、透明電極部に重ねて(即ち、接触させて)低抵抗の電極部分を設ける。通常は、基板表面端部に位置する透明電極層の端辺部に、帯状に低抵抗透明電極部を設ける(例えば、金属製クリップを装着する)。

【〇〇14】また、ECD 調光ガラスは素子劣化を防ぐために封止樹脂(例えばエボキシ樹脂)及び封止基板により封止されて用いられる。本出願人が既に出願した発明に係わる特開平6-167724号公報では、調光ガラスの製造方法を記載し、少なくともエレクトロクロミック層とこれを挟む一対の透明電極層とからなるエレクトロクロミック素子を素子基板表面に形成した調光ガラスの製造方法において、素子基板表面の端部及び内部に位置する前記透明電極層上に低抵抗電極部を設け、この素子基板を合わせガラス用中間膜および封止基板により封止したことを開示した。

### [0015]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】ECD 調光ガラスの大型 化には種々の技術的問題を伴うが、その中の大きな問題 点に不均一な着消色がある。この不均一な着消色は、EC D 着色時に時間が経過しても着色濃度がECD の全面で一 定とならないで濃淡差(色むら)ができ、また消色時に も濃淡差(色むら)が目立つ現象であり、外観不良の 他、耐久性低下の原因となる。

【0016】また、別の問題点に封止の生産性が悪いことがある。硬化する前の封止樹脂は液状であり、ECD 調光ガラスの光学歪みや素子劣化を防ぐために、素子面全体に均一な厚さで封止樹脂を硬化させる必要がある。この均一な厚さの達成には、封止樹脂量、加圧力及び加圧力分布の適切な調整を要する。

【0017】例えば、基板面からはみだす程封止樹脂量を十分に多くすると、均一厚さのための加圧力及び加圧力分布の調整は比較的容易となるが、はみだした樹脂を除去する工程が必要になる。また、基板面からはみださないように封止樹脂量を少なくすると、はみだした樹脂

を除去する工程が不要になるが、均一厚さのための加圧 力及び加圧力分布の調整が非常に困難となり、均一厚さ を実現できないか、または調整に多大の時間を要するこ とになる。

【0018】また、本出願人が既に出願した発明に係わる特開平6-167724号公報に記載の調光ガラスの製造方法では、着消色が均一で外観や耐久性及び生産性を向上せしめることができたものの、例えば上下電極部(バスバー部)に低抵抗電極部を粘着テープで適宜貼り付けていたが、貼り付け作業に時間がかかることがあり、また長期の使用では該貼り付け部の接着が剥離する現象が起こることがあって、外観不良になるばかりか、前記上下電極部と前記低抵抗電極部との接触が悪くなり、接触抵抗が高くなって着消色時とも応答性が低下することがあり、さらなる耐久性が望まれるものであった。

【0019】本発明の目的は、着消色が均一で良好な外観をより長く持続でき、より長期的な耐久性を備え、長期的安定性に優れる調光ガラスを生産性をより向上しコストダウンを図り、製造することにある。

#### [0020]

【課題を解決するための手段】ECD 調光ガラスの大型化に伴って、基板表面端部に位置する透明電極層上に設けた低抵抗電極部の間隔が増大する。図7は、ECD 調光ガラスの概略断面図であり、図9は、従来のECD 調光ガラスであって、基板表面端部に位置する透明電極層上に設けた低抵抗電極部(例えば金属製クリップ)H1, H2の間隔が大きいECDに電圧を印加した場合における電流 I の流れる様子を模式的に示した図〔図9(a)〕、およびこれによるECD 調光ガラスにおける着色状況を示した図〔図9(b)〕である。

【〇〇21】ECD が大型化するに従い、透明電極層の抵抗が増大してECD の内部方向への抵抗よりも大きくなるので、図9に示すように、電流 I の大部分は、透明電極層の一端から比較的低抵抗で流れやすいECD 内部に流れ込んでしまい、その結果、低抵抗電極部H1に近い部分では早く濃く着色するが、低抵抗電極部H1から離れた中央部から他端にかけては、ほとんど電流が流れず、着色が非常に遅く薄くなり、特に大型のECD において、この傾向が著しいことが判った。

【0022】また、消色時も、着色時に比べれば不均一の傾向は少ないものの、同様の原因で不均一に消色することが判った。なお、図6は、従来のECD 調光ガラス4の基板の4辺端部に4本の導電性クリップII を装着した場合の状態を示す概略平面図である。

【0023】従って、図8に示すような均等な電流が流れ、均一に着消色する大型ECDとするためには、透明電極層の抵抗をECDの内部抵抗程度に小さくすればよいことが判った。

【0024】透明電極層の抵抗を小さくするためには、 低抵抗の電極材料を使用すれば良いが、現状の透明電極 材料 (ITO 、ZnO 、SnO<sub>2</sub>等) では、この要求を充分に満たすことができない。

【0025】本発明者らは、低抵抗の電極部の形成方法について、ECD 調光ガラスの封止に合わせガラス用中間膜を使用し、該中間膜に低抵抗電極部を直接熱着し、該低抵抗電極部と前記したバスバー部(上下電極部)に当たる上下透明電極層の端辺部とをそれぞれ直接接触させるようにすると、長期の使用でも前記した剥離現象が起こることもなく、着消色が均一で良好な外観をより長く持続でき、より長期的な耐久性を備え、長期的安定性に優れる調光ガラスを製造することができ、封止の生産性がより向上しコストダウンができることを見出した。

【0026】本発明は、少なくともエレクトロクロミッ ク層とこれを挟む一対の透明電極層とからなるエレクト ロクロミック素子を素子基板表面に形成した調光ガラス において、前記透明電極層上のバスバー部に当たる低抵 抗電極部に対応する位置に予め低抵抗電極部を設けた合 わせガラス用中間膜を透明電極層上に重ねてなることを 特徴とする調光ガラス、また、前記低抵抗電極部が素子 基板表面の端部の位置の前記透明電極層上に形成された 導電性の箔またはワイヤーからなり、その箔またはワイ ヤーの一部が前記合わせガラス用中間膜の縁から外側へ 突出しており、リード線との接続部となることを特徴と する上述した調光ガラス、また、一対の透明電極層の重 なりがある領域の上部透明電極層上に、前記低抵抗電極 部に接続された導電性のワイヤーを配設してなることを 特徴とする上述した調光ガラスを提供するものである。 【0027】さらに、本発明は、少なくともエレクトロ

【0027】さらに、本発明は、少なくともエレクトロクロミック層とこれを挟む一対の透明電極層とからなるエレクトロクロミック素子を素子基板表面に形成した調光ガラスの製造方法において、前記透明電極層上にバスバー部に当たる低抵抗電極部を設けるために、該低抵抗電極部に対応する位置に予め低抵抗電極部を設けた合わせガラス用中間膜を前記透明電極層上に重ねることを特徴とする調光ガラスの製造方法を提供するものである前記低抵抗電極部を、熱によって合わせガラス用中間膜に貼着するとよく、前記熱の温度が、約80℃以上150 ℃以下程度であると好ましい。

【0028】また、前記貼着する手段は、通電による発熱、あるいはハンダゴテまたはこれに類するものでの熱であるとよい。さらに、前記合わせガラス用中間膜は、可塑化ポリビニールブチラール、もしくは変成エチレンビニールアセテートが好ましい。

#### [0029]

【発明の実施の形態】本発明の調光ガラスでは、基板表面端部に位置する透明電極層上だけでなく、透明電極層パターンの輪郭線よりも内側の基板表面内部の上部透明電極層上に低抵抗電極部(以後、この低抵抗電極部を補助バスバーとも呼ぶ)を設けることにより、上下透明電極層上の低抵抗電極部間隔を低減して透明電極層の抵抗

をECDの内部抵抗に近づけることができる。

【〇〇3〇】その結果、ECD に電圧を印加した時の電流 Iは、図8に示すようにECD 内部方向だけでなく上部透 明電極層の水平方向にも充分に流れ、しかも比較的低抵 抗のECD 内部に於ける着色の拡散効果があるので、ECD 全面に渡って均一に着色させることができる。

【0031】バスバーの材料としては、例えば金、銀、アルミニウム、銅、白金、クロム、スズ、亜鉛、ニッケル、ルテニウム、ロジウム、ステンレス等の金属ワイヤー、金属箔及び金属薄膜または導電性ペースト等が使用できる。

【0032】シートR の端部に設けたバスバーの一部を合わせガラス用中間膜の端縁から外側へ突出させてリード線との接続部とすることが好ましく、金属箔または金属ワイヤーを用いる場合は、その長さ方向に対して端部を外側へ90°折り曲げるだけでよい。

【0033】ところで、バスバーの長さとしては、基板の一辺の長さいっぱいと長すぎると着色時にコーナー4箇所の透過率が下がりすぎ、全体のバランスがとれなくなるため、基板の一辺の長さより短めとすることが好ましい(恐らく他の場所と比べ、通電による電圧降下の影響が少ない)。最適のバスバーの長さは、印加電圧、IT0の抵抗、ECDの抵抗、ECDの形状、使用温度などの複雑な要因を考慮して適宜決める。

【0034】なお、図7~9に見られるように、バスバーが下部ITO 電極部、上部ITO 電極部ともに1本(1辺)づつであれば、バスバーの長さを短くする必要はない。また、本発明にかかる合わせガラス用中間膜には、例えば可塑化PVB(ポリビニールブチラール)または変成EVA(エチレンビニールアセテート)が好ましいが、これらに類するものであれば特に限定されるものではない。

【0035】本発明に於けるECD の積層構造は、特にどれと限定されるものではないが、固体型ECD の構造としては、例えば電極層/EC層(酸化発色膜または還元発色膜)/イオン導電層/電極層のような4層構造、ならびに電極層/還元着色型EC層/イオン導電層/可逆的電解酸化層/電極層のような5層構造〔図7〕が挙げられる。

【0036】還元着色型EC層としては、一般に $W0_3$ ,Mn  $0_3$ , $V_20_5$ 等が使用される。イオン導電層としては、例えば酸化ケイ素、酸化タンタル、酸化チタン、酸化アルミニウム、酸化ニオブ、酸化ジルコニウム、酸化ハフニウム、酸化ランタン、フッ化マグネシウム等が使用される。また、イオン導電層は、電子に対して絶縁体であるが、プロトン( $H^+$ )及びヒドロキシイオン( $OH^-$ )に対しては良導体となる。EC層の着消色反応にはカチオンが必要とされ、 $H^+$ やLi+をEC層その他に含有させる必要がある。 $H^+$ は、初めからイオンである必要はなく、電圧が印加された時に $H^+$ が生じればよく、従って $H^+$ の

代わりに水を含有させてもよい。この水は、非常に少なくて充分であり、しばしば大気中から自然に侵入する水分でも着消色する。

【0037】可逆的電解酸化層としては、例えば酸化ないし水酸化イリジウム、同じくニッケル、同じくクロム、同じくルテニウム、同じくロジウム等が挙げられる。これらの物質は、イオン導電層または透明電極層中に分散されていてもよいし、逆にそれらを分散していてもよい。

【0038】なお、前記酸化発色膜(可逆的電解酸化層)または還元発色膜(還元着色型EC層)は、どちらを上にしても下にしてもよいが、同一の膜を上下には使用しない。

【0039】前記の場合は、EC層とイオン導電層とは、どちらを上にしても下にしてもよい。さらに前記の場合は、EC層に対して間にイオン導電層を挟んで(場合により酸化着色性EC層ともなる)可逆的電解酸化層(ないし触媒層)を配設してもよい。

[0040]

【実施例】以下、実施例により本発明を具体的に説明するが、本発明はこれに限定されるものではない。

【0041】実施例1

図 $1\sim3$ に示す約45cm $\times45$ cm+47cm+49cm+40cm+4

【0042】(1) 約45cm×45cmサイズのガラス製素子基板S の表面全体にDCスパッタリングにより下部ITO 電極層B を形成した。スパッタリング時の基板加熱温度は約200℃、該ITO 電極層の膜厚は約1000Å、該ITO 電極層のシート抵抗は約25Ω/口であった。

【0043】(2) 図2と3に示すように、フォトエッチングにより上記下部ITO 電極層の両側B',B''の領域のIT 0 電極層を除去した。なお、ITO をマスク蒸着することにより直接にこれらのパターンを形成してもよい。

【0044】(3) DCスパッタリングにより酸化イリジウムと酸化スズとの混合物からなる可逆的電解酸化層C、酸化タンタルのイオン導電層D、酸化タングステン層Eを順次形成した。

【0045】(4) DCスパッタリングにより上部ITO 電極層A を形成して、ECD を作製した。スパッタリング時の基板加熱は行わず(加熱すると先に成膜したEC層が劣化する)、上部ITO 電極層A の膜厚を約3000Åにして上部ITO 電極層A のシート抵抗が下部電極層B と同じ約25Ω/口になるようにした。

【〇〇46】(5) 合わせガラス用中間膜であるシートR(変成EVA または可塑化PVB)を約45cm×45cmの大きさに切り出し、シートRの所定の場所〔図1~3のJ(上部透明電極用の低抵抗電極部=バスバー)、K(下部透明電極用の低抵抗電極部=バスバー)の位置〕にエンボス加工付き銅箔(厚さ10μm、巾2.5mm、長さ25mm。エ

ンボス加工がなくてもよいが、後工程の合わせ(封止)時に良好な接着が得られるため該加工があるものの方が好ましい)が一致するように置き、図4に示すように、AC7Vの電圧を約1cmの間隔の通電端子に印加し、銅箔の任意の点を押さえ、火花が僅かに発生するとともに、銅箔とシートRとは瞬間的に接着した。このような操作を銅箔1本当たり十数箇所連続して行った。

【0047】なお、銅箔とシートR とを接着する場所は、銅箔とシートR のサイズにより適宜決めればよい。また通電端子の大きさや形状についても適宜決めればよく、本実施例に限定されない。また複数の通電端子を用いてもよい。

【 ○ ○ 4 8】また、銅箔は後でリード線と接続するため、シートR と接着していない部分を設け、シートR の縁から外側へ接着した銅箔の長さ方向に対し90°に折り曲げた〔図 1~3におけるJ'(上部電極部=バスバーの接続部), K'(下部電極部=バスバーの接続部)]。なお、印加電圧はそれほど大きくなくても銅箔とシートRとは充分接着した。印加電圧としては、ACまたはDCで約3~10Vで約1秒以内程度が好ましいものであった。また、ハンダゴテの温度は約80~150°C程度で押さえ時間は約1秒以内とほぼ瞬時の接着である。また接着力については、長期的に通電抵抗が増加する変化が起こらない低抵抗の導通が維持できるものであればよく、このような接着方法でよい。

【0049】(6) このエンボス加工付きの銅箔を上記方法で熔着的に貼り付けたシートR (EVA 膜: デュミランF300、約250 μm) およびガラス製の封止基板G により、該銅箔熔着EVA 膜であるシートR (銅箔熔着面を素子基板のEC素子面向きとする)をEC素子付きガラス板である素子基板S (素子側を内向きとする)と封止基板Gとを、上記(4)の工程で形成した透明電極層上に銅箔がバスバーの位置になるようにサンドイッチ状に重ね、ラミネーター(プレス用)を用い、例えば約40℃、約5分で約0.1~0.5Torr または/および約85℃、約25分で0.1~5Torr 等の条件により圧着することで合わせ、冷却することによって素子を封止した。

【0050】なお、合わせによる封止の手順等、そのやり方は特に限定されない。

(7) 上部電極層及び下部電極層のバスバーJ, KのJ', k'にそれぞれ外部配線(外部配線の端子LA, LB)をボンディングしてECD調光ガラス1を作製した。なお、前記ボンディングする位置については特に左右限定されるものではなく、また別の銅箔やワイヤー等(補助バスバー)を、例えば中央部に貼り付けたシートR(貼り付けなくてもよい)を用いる等、適宜最適な位置を選択すればよい。

【0051】この様にして作製したECD 調光ガラス<u>1</u>に 前記端子LA, LBを介して駆動電源Suから約+1.5 V の消 色電圧を約5分間印加して、この時のECD 調光ガラス<u>1</u> の着色部全面における C光源による透過率分布を測定したところ、約22 $\sim$ 27%程度であり、図8 (b) に示すようになり、特に気になるような不均一な着色は観察されなかった。次に、約-1.5 V の消色電圧を約1 分間印加すると透過率は $65\sim68$ %程度に回復し、消色中も気になるような色ムラは観察されなかった。

#### 【0052】実施例2

【0053】このECD 調光ガラス2に駆動電源Suから約 -1.5Vの消色電圧を約1分間印加して測定したリーク電流は、約-0.8mA 程度であり、実施例1の場合よりもやや増加した。リーク電流がやや大きいのは、図5に示すように、ニッケルメッキ銅線バスバーを設けた場所において圧力がかかり、上下透明電極A,B パターンの重なり部分に何らかの影響があるためと考えられる。

【0054】該ECD 調光ガラス<u>2</u>に駆動電源Suから約+1.5Vの着色電圧を約2分間印加して、この時のECD 調光ガラス<u>2</u>の着消色部全面における C光源による透過率分布を測定したところ、約20~23%程度であり、実施例1と同様に、気になる不均一な着色は観察されなかった。【0055】次に、約一1.5Vの消色電圧を約1分間印加すると透過率は約67~70%程度に回復し、消色中も気になるような色ムラは観察されなかった。また、応答が約2~3倍に速くなったのは、上部ITO 膜にニッケルメッキ銅線バスバーを設けたため、上部ITO 膜のシート抵抗が見かけ上下がったためである。

【0056】なお、補助電極として用いたニッケルメッキ銅線バスバーについては、これに限らず低抵抗の導体であれば何でもよいが、導体の抵抗については1本当たり約3  $\Omega$ 以下程度となるものが好ましい。3  $\Omega$ 程度以上となると上部ITO 膜への補助電極としての効果が薄れ、応答性の向上が少なくなる。さらにより好ましくは約0.5  $\Omega$ 前後程度以下(低ければ低いほどよい)である。

# 【0057】実施例3

図1に示したバスバーJ、Kの銅箔を貼り付けるシートR上の位置に、銀ペーストによる銀薄膜またはマスク蒸着により銅薄膜をコーティングした他は、実施例1と同様にしてECD調光ガラスを作製した。

【 O O 5 8 】このECD 調光ガラスに駆動電源Suから約ー1.5Vの消色電圧を約1分間印加して測定したリーク電流は、約-0.5mA 程度であった。このECD 調光ガラスに駆動電源Suから約+1.5Vの着色電圧を約5分間印加して、この時のECD 調光ガラスの着消色部全面における C光源による透過率分布を測定したところ、約21~26%程度で

あり、実施例1と同様に、気になる不均一な着色は観察されなかった。次に、約-1.5Vの消色電圧を約1分間印加すると透過率は約65 $\sim68$ %程度に回復し、消色中も気になる色ムラは観察されなかった。

#### 【0059】比較例1

サイズを約25cm×15cmとし、断面がコの字型で長さが約15cmのリン青銅またはステンレス製の導電性クリップH (H1、H2)を2本用意し、この導電性クリップH 2本を図9に示す様に素子基板端部の対抗する辺に装着し、これにより導電性クリップH が上部、下部各電極層の取り出し部を圧着するようにした他は、実施例1と同様にしてECD 調光ガラスを作製した。

【0060】このECD 調光ガラスに駆動電源Suから約-1.5Vの消色電圧を約0.5 分間印加して測定したリーク電流は、約-0.1mA 程度であった。このECD 調光ガラスに駆動電源Suから約+1.5Vの着色電圧を約3分間印加して、この時のECD 調光ガラスの着消色部全面における C 光源による透過率分布を測定したところ、約27~35%程度であり、図9の(a) および(b) に示すように、模式図のような不均等な電流が流れ、平面図にあるような気になる不均一な着色が観察された。次に、約-1.5Vの消色電圧を約0.5 分間印加すると透過率は、約65~68%程度に回復したが、消色中もやはり気になる色ムラが観察された。

【0061】なお、本発明の調光ガラスの製造方法はECDについて詳述したが、ECD分野だけでなく、液晶(LCD)分野等これらに類する分野にも広く採用することが可能であることは言うまでもない。

# 【0062】比較例2

実施例1と同じ大きさで、断面がコの字型で長さが約25 cmのリン青銅またはステンレス製の導電性クリップH (H1、H2)を4本用意し、この導電性クリップH4本を図6に示す様に素子基板端部の対抗する辺に装着し、これにより導電性クリップHが上部、下部各電極層の取り出し部を圧着するようにした他は、実施例1と同様にしてECD 調光ガラス4を作製した。

【0063】このECD 調光ガラスに駆動電源Suから約-1.5Vの消色電圧を約1分間印加して測定したリーク電流は、約-0.5mA 程度であった。このECD 調光ガラスに駆動電源Suから約+1.5Vの着色電圧を約5分間印加して、この時のECD 調光ガラスの着消色部全面における C光源による透過率分布を測定したところ、約30~38%程度であり、比較例1と同様の傾向を示す不均等な電流が流れ、気になる不均一な着色が観察された。次に、約-1.5Vの消色電圧を約1分間印加すると透過率は、約67~70%程度に回復したが、消色中もやはり気になる色ムラが観察された。

【0064】なお、本発明の調光ガラスの製造方法はECD について詳述したが、ECD 分野だけでなく、液晶(LCD)分野等これらに類する分野にも広く採用することが

可能であることは言うまでもない。

#### [0065]

【発明の効果】以上の通り、本発明によれば、合わせガラス用中間膜に電流の発熱等を利用して低抵抗電極部 (バスバー)を熱熔着させ、これを基板表面の端部の透明電極層上に圧着し、この素子基板および封止基板により封止するようにしたので、着消色が均一で良好な外観をより長く持続でき、より長期的な耐久性を備え、長期的安定性ならびに応答性が優れた調光ガラスをより生産性よく製造することができ、コストダウンを図れる。

【0066】また、一対の透明電極層の重なりがある領域に前記貼着低抵抗電極部(バスバー)に接続した前記低抵抗電極部(補助バスバー)を設けることにより、さらに応答性が格段に優れた耐久性の良好な調光ガラスを製造することができる。

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】実施例1にかかるECD 調光ガラスの概略断面図である。

【図2】図1の実施例1にかかるECD 調光ガラスのバス バーのパターン等を示す概略平面図である。

【図3】図1の実施例1にかかるECD 調光ガラスの概略 斜視図である。

【図4】実施例1にかかる中間膜へのバスバーの接着方法を示す説明図である。

【図5】実施例2にかかるECD 調光ガラスのバスバーと 補助バスバーのパターン等を示す概略平面図である。

【図6】従来の調光ガラスにおける基板端部に導電性クリップを装着した状態を示す概略平面図である。

【図7】ECD 調光ガラスの概略断面図である。

【図8】本発明にかかるECD 調光ガラスにおいて電流 I

が流れる様子を示す模式図:図8(a)、およびこれによるECD 調光ガラスの着色状況を示す平面図:図8(b) である。

【図9】比較例1のECD 調光ガラスにおいて電流 I が流れる様子を示す模式図:図9(a)、およびこれによるECD 調光ガラスの着色状況を示す平面図:図9(b)である

#### 【符号の説明】

1 · · · ECD 調光ガラス

**2**···**ECD** 調光ガラス

4···ECD 調光ガラス

A···上部ITO 電極層

B···下部ITO 電極層

E・・・酸化タングステン層

D・・・イオン導電層

C・・・可逆的電解酸化層

ECD · · エレクトロクロミック素子

R···シート(合わせガラス用中間膜)

S・・・素子基板

G···封止基板

H・・・導電性クリップ

J・・・上部透明電極用の低抵抗電極部(バスバー)

K···下部透明電極用の低抵抗電極部(バスバー)

J'・・上部電極部 (バスバー) の接続部

K'・・下部電極部 (バスバー) の接続部

I···ECD 駆動電流

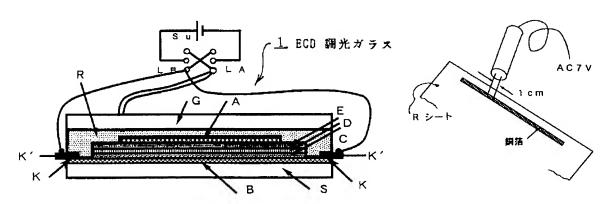
W··・-導電性のワイヤー(補助バスバーの一例)

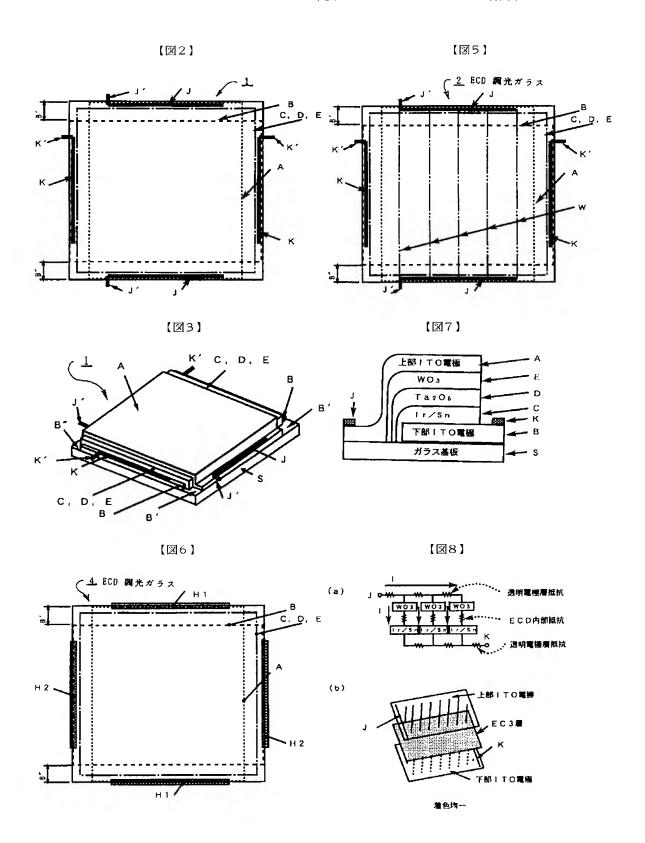
LA···J'からの外部配線の端子

LB···K'からの外部配線の端子

Su···駆動電源

(図1)





【図9】

